

a.) Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An agent for A preventing or treating or delaying the onset of agent for arthritis which comprises, as active ingredients:

(i) leaves or branch ends of plant belonging to the genus *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. Thunbergii Makino, or an extract of the plant said leaves or branch ends; and

(ii) an amino sugar or a salt thereof, or and/or glycosaminolgycan or a salt thereof as active ingredients.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

3. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The ~~preventing or treating~~ agent for treating or delaying the onset of arthritis according to ~~claim 2, wherein the plant of claim 1, wherein the~~ *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. Thunbergii Makino is *Hydrangeae Dulcis Folium*.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~preventing or treating~~ agent for treating or delaying the onset of arthritis according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3, either of claims 1 or 3,~~ wherein the amino sugar is glucosamine or a salt thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~preventing or treating~~ agent for treating or delaying the onset of arthritis according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3, either of claims 1 or 3,~~ wherein the glycosaminoglycan is chondroitin sulfate or a salt thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) A food or drink, further comprising:
leaves or branch ends of a plant belonging to the genus *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. Thunbergii Makino, or an extract of ~~the plant~~ said leaves or branch ends; and

amino sugar or a salt thereof, or ~~and/or~~ glycosaminoglycan or a salt thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) The food ~~and drink or the additive for foods and drinks~~ or drink according to claim 6, ~~wherein it~~ which is used for ~~prevention or treatment of~~ treating or delaying the onset of arthritis.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) The food ~~and~~ or drink ~~or the additive for foods and drinks~~ according to ~~claim 6 to 7, either of claims 6 or 7,~~ wherein the plant

~~belonging to the genus~~ *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. *Thunbergii* Makino is
Hydrangeae Dulcis Folium.

10. (Currently Amended) The food ~~and~~ or drink ~~or the additive for~~
~~foods and drinks~~ according to ~~claim 8~~, either of claims 6 or 7, wherein the amino sugar is
glucosamine or a salt thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) The food ~~and~~ or drink ~~or the additive for~~
~~foods and drinks~~ according to ~~claim 10~~, either of claims 6 or 7, wherein the
glycosaminoglycan is chondroitin sulfate or a salt thereof.

Claims 12-17 (Cancelled).

18. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method for preventing or
treating or delaying the onset of ~~method for~~ arthritis, which comprises administering ~~plant~~
~~belonging to the genus~~ to a mammal (i) leaves or branch ends of *Hydrangea macrophylla*
Seringe var. *Thunbergii* Makino or an extract of the plant said leaves or branch ends, and
(ii) amino sugar or a salt thereof, or ~~and/or~~ glycosaminoglycan or a salt thereof.

Claim 19 (Cancelled).

20. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The ~~preventing or treating~~ method for treating or delaying the onset of arthritis according to claim 19, wherein the ~~plant of~~ *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. Thunbergii Makino is *Hydrangeae Dulcis* Folium.

21. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The ~~preventing or treating~~ method for treating or delaying the onset of arthritis according to ~~any of claims 18 to 20,~~ claim 18 or 20, wherein the amino sugar is glucosamine or a salt thereof.

22. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The ~~preventing or treating~~ method for treating or delaying the onset of arthritis according to ~~any of claims 18 to 20,~~ claim 18 or 20, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is chondroitin sulfate or a salt thereof.

Claims 23-27 (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) The ~~preventing or treating~~ agent for treating or delaying the onset of arthritis according to claim 4, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is chondroitin sulfate or a salt thereof.

29. (Currently Amended) The food ~~and~~ or drink ~~or the additive for foods and drinks~~ according to claim 9, wherein the amino sugar is glucosamine or a salt thereof.

30. (Currently Amended) The food ~~and~~ or drink ~~or the additive for foods and drinks~~ according to ~~claim 29,~~ claim 9, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is chondroitin sulfate or a salt thereof.

31. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The ~~preventing or treating~~ method for treating or delaying the onset of arthritis according to claim 21, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is chondroitin sulfate or a salt thereof.

32. (New) The food or drink according to claim 29, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is chondroitin sulfate or a salt thereof.